

NSC BRIEFING

27 April 1960

CUBA

- I. In Cuba, increasingly complex domestic problems impelling Castro to make scapegoat of US.
- A. We expect a new peak on May Day, when Castro plans to stage mass demonstrations and parades of the army and the workers', peasants' and students' militia.
- B. A "meeting of democratic political and intellectual personalities" of hemisphere also planned for 29 April to 1 May in Havana.
1. "Personalities" include leftist types from many LA countries, some of whom, such as elderly Socialist leader Palacios of Argentina, have considerable prestige at home.
2. Delegation from US includes Carleton Beals (elderly American "expert" on LA who obtained his introduction to Latin America as a draft dodger in Mexico in World War I) and Waldo Frank. Both leftists who helped organize "Fair Play for Cuba Committee" in New York City last month.

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- C. Top Cuban Communists in Peiping for May Day--including Blas Roca, Secretary-General of Party.
- D. Three Soviet tankers and ten cargo ships have or shortly will arrive in Cuban ports, implementing February Cuban-USSR trade deal. Fourth tanker on way.

1. Cargo ships to load sugar, but probably bringing Soviet products.
2. Tankers bringing both gasoline and crude oil.
3. US oil companies with refineries in Cuba expect a demand to process Russian crude.

E. Cuban government reported to have decreed seizure of sugar mills.

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F. Readers' Digest, which prints Spanish edition in Havana, is thinking of abandoning its plant there.

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